THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per the joint census of handlooms & powerlooms conducted during 1995-96, there were 4,90,616 persons engaged in handloom weaving and its associated activitiesin Pradesh.

(b) Government of India is implementing a number of Schemes for the overall development of handloom sector and the welfare of the handloom weavers throughout the country, including in Andhra Pradesh, which include:

(1) Design Development & Training Programme

(2) Marketing Promotion Programme

(3) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(4) Deen Dayal Hathkarga Protsahan Yojana

(5) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

(6) Weavers Welfare Scheme

(7) Handloom Export Scheme

(8) Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

A sum of Rs. 1613.93 lakh and Rs. 1320.94 lakh were released to State Government of Andhra Pradesh during 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively for the implementation of the above schemes.

Proposal for Selling Properties of Azam Jahi Mills in A.P

2533. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sell properties of Azam Jahi Mills, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Government of India not to dispose off the property; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken by Government? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. This mill has been found unviable as per the Techno Economic Viability Study. There has been no production activity in the mill since 1993 and the workers were being paid idle wages. BIFR, after studying the viability, ordered closure of this mill. Accordingly, the mill was closed under ID Act on 31 st October 2002 after paying Rs. 20.70 Cr. as VRS to workers. Sale of the land is undertaken as per the BIFR scheme only after due procedure has been followed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Despite the above-mentioned facts, in view of the request of the State Government, NTC has been directed to keep the sale of land in abeyance. The final decision regarding the sale would be taken after consultation with the State Government.

Asset Sale Committee of NTC

2534. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asset Sale Committee of National Textile Corporation has given permission to sell surplus lands to NTC subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the details of the pending requests for sale of surplus lands from closed NTC Mills; and

(d) by when ASC will examine and give permission for sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL) (a) and (b) Assent Sale Committees constituted by BIFR for sale of surplus assets of NTC have so far given permission for sale of 18 parcels of lands in 8 states, details of which are enclosed as statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) There are no pending requests with Asset Sale Committees.